

# Akron City

January - April 2009

**News:** Mayor, City lauded nationally for keeping jobs

**Neighborhoods:** DeVitis still providing North Hill favorites

**Feature Story:** Akron's Green Team saves energy, money

## Where The Jobs Are:

700 at FirstEnergy's newly-constructed Akron campus (page 11)





# Akron Happenings

Upcoming events  
for everyone!

## Wednesday, December 31

### Akron's 13th annual First Night

Northeast Ohio's largest New Year's Eve alcohol-free family friendly celebration of the arts! Interactive children's activities begin at 4pm at Lock 3, and the evening ends with a spectacular fireworks display at midnight. In between,



there's music and living art throughout downtown. Admission buttons \$10. Children under 10 are admitted free.  
[www.downtownakron.com](http://www.downtownakron.com)



## February 2-13

### Rethinking Race: Black, White and Beyond

This is the second year in our ongoing and proactive work in understanding race relations. The University of Akron  
[www2.uakron.edu/race](http://www2.uakron.edu/race)

The  
of University  
Akron

## Saturday February 7

### 16th Anniversary Concert of Gospel Meets Symphony

E.J. Thomas Hall,  
Christopher Wilkins,  
conductor,  
7:30pm, [www.  
akronsymphony.org](http://www.akronsymphony.org)

## February 27-28

### Home Builders Association Home & Flower Show

John S. Knight Center,  
330.869.6800,  
[www.akron  
homeand  
flower  
show.com](http://www.akronhomeandflowershow.com)



## January is

### "Get Up, Get Out, & Have Fun" month at Lock 3

[www.lock3live.com](http://www.lock3live.com)

For information, call 330.375.2877  
All events benefit Akron area charities

### Saturday, January 3 – Skateathon

11am - 10pm, bring a can of food for Akron-Canton Foodbank and see how long you can skate! Prizes.



### Sundays, January 4, 11, 18 – Pancake Breakfasts

11:00am - 1pm. \$5

### Friday, January 9 – Firefighters Chili Challenge

for benefit of Children's Hospital Burn Unit, 11am - 2pm. \$5.

### Saturday, January 10 – Restaurant Chili Challenge

Akron's favorites, hot and heavy, as you like it. \$5

### January 17-18 – Cabin Fever Art Fair

Over 20 artists' work on display. **FREE**



### Saturday, January 24 – Winter Carnival

Get the kids involved in activities. **FREE**

### Sunday, January 25 – Noodlemania

Pasta, dumplings, if it's a noodle, we got it. \$5



### Saturday, January 31 – Soup-er Bowl

Akron restaurants compete for prizes with their specialty soups. \$5

## Wednesdays in February

### Home & Garden Series

Beat the winter blues and think Spring!

Main Library. 6:30pm  
Free. 330-643-9075  
[www.akronlibrary.org](http://www.akronlibrary.org)



## Saturday March 14

### St. Patrick's Parade

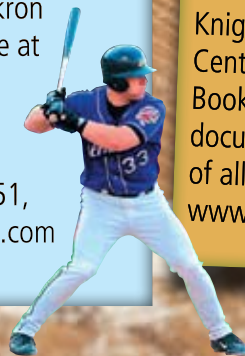


South Main  
Street. Steps  
off at noon at  
Main and Bart-  
ges. The Akron  
Hibernians,  
330.882.3174

## April 8-11

### Spring is here! Baseball

is back, as the Akron Aeros meet Bowie at Canal Park Stadium, Wed-Fri 7:05pm, Sat 1:35 pm, 330.253.5151, [www.akronaeros.com](http://www.akronaeros.com)



## April 10, 11

### Akron Antiquarian Book Fair

John S. Knight Center. Books and documents of all kinds, 330.865.5831, [www.nobsweb.org](http://www.nobsweb.org)



Akron City is produced three times a year. The magazine and recycling calendar are distributed by U.S. Mail to all residents of Akron by Keep Akron Beautiful, a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Ohio, Paula Davis, director.

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330-375-2116  
e-mail: KeepAkronBeautiful@ci.akron.oh.us

Tell us what you think by replying to  
editor@ci.akron.oh.us

Or share your thoughts with the mayor at  
mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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## DeVitis Italian Deli & Market

*A North Hill Tradition*

By Robert Sberna

**North Hill** — In the late 1940s, when Frank DeVitis established his namesake grocery store on East Tallmadge Avenue in North Hill, he offered Old World quality and personal attention to the area's predominantly Italian population.

North Hill today boasts a diverse cultural mix, but DeVitis Italian Deli & Market continues its tradition of excellent service, fresh produce and an array of homemade items, including sausages, lasagna and pasta sauces.

"What we still represent is an old-fashioned, family-run business," says Robert DeVitis, Frank's grandson. "Our customers appreciate coming here and seeing the same people over and over. They like knowing that they are being served by

someone who is related to the owner."

Robert took over as president when his parents, Angelo and Grace, retired. He works alongside his siblings David, Anthony and Laura. Robert's son, Nicholas, also helps out.

Along with its strong customer focus, Robert says the store's deli counter is a big draw. "We're famous for the Italian sausage we've been making since my grandfather started the business," he says. "And we cut our deli meat to order, any way you like it."

Open seven days a week, DeVitis features popular daily lunch specials.

"The key to our success is that we offer quality at a fair price," he notes.



## New PeaceMakers Group Connects Teens to City Hall

*Anti-crime program focuses on civic involvement*

By Billy Soule

**Akron** — Teenagers with too much time on their hands can be a potential problem in any community. In Akron, Mayor Don Plusquellic has announced the formation of the city's new PeaceMakers group, a youth-oriented anti-crime program for Akron high school students, with a special focus on civic involvement.

Through Peacemakers, which was initiated by the city in May 2008, the students learn over an eight-week period how government and community organizations work. They interact with police, see first-hand the workings of Juvenile Court and learn about their rights as citizens.

The goal of PeaceMakers is to elevate young people to positions of leadership and enable them to help motivate other young civic leaders. To date, five separate classes of PeaceMakers have graduated, with the hope that the 80 students who have completed the

program will dedicate themselves to making Akron a stronger and safer community.

In addition to helping to present Akron's Night Out (against crime) event, the PeaceMakers have assisted with the city's 9/11 commemoration. PeaceMakers have also assisted with the Red Ribbon Week project in all Akron high schools, where more than 2,200 young people pledged not to do drugs or be involved in violence.

In the coming year, the classes will speak to neighborhood block watches and other public forums about the state of Akron's youth. PeaceMakers is free to students with passing grades, who live in Akron and are enrolled in grades 9-11 in an Akron public school, a private school, or are home-schooled. They may also be eligible if they attend or participate in faith-based activities in Akron.

For more information about PeaceMakers, Billy Soule can be reached at 330.375.2660 or [soulebi@ci.akron.oh.us](mailto:soulebi@ci.akron.oh.us)

**Oriana House**

# Helping to Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

When Akron closed its Workhouse on Cuyahoga Street in 1995, men and women charged with nonviolent misdemeanors had nowhere to go — except the Summit County Jail.

For nearly 30 years, Akron-based Oriana House has helped provide solutions for the police, the courts, the probation department and social services agencies to keep Akron safe and to allow offenders the chance at a new life. And since the closing of the Workhouse, Oriana House staff has also provided services to Akron misdemeanants.

It's well documented that people convicted of minor crimes are less likely to re-offend when they are placed in community-based corrections programs that teach new skills; that focus on successful community living; and, that include dependency treatment for individuals facing addiction issues.

"More than half of the offenders in Ohio prisons are serving a sentence of less than one year and are unable to get rehabilitative services while in jail," says Bernie Rochford, vice president of Oriana House. "Consequently, when these men and women return home from prison, they come back to our Akron neighborhoods without jobs and without their issues addressed, which can include chemical dependency, anger management, or lack of parenting skills."

Oriana House, a private nonprofit organization, fulfills a vital need by providing rehabilitation and reentry services to ex-offenders who are serving their sentence locally or returning to this area from prison.

Oriana House offers various residential programs and supervises its clients in the most appropriate way through work release, halfway houses and driver intervention, as well as nonresidential programs like electronic monitoring.



Staffers at Terrence Mann Residential Center, Oriana's men's work release and halfway house, make plans for a client's path from offender to member of community.

Oriana House's 12 Akron facilities, including five residential facilities for men and three for women, employ 400 professionals, including licensed social workers, caseworkers, medical staff, treatment counselors, education and employment staff and programming and administrative personnel.

"We offer research-based programming to help offenders address issues like chemical dependency, thinking skills, accountability and other obstacles that, if not dealt with, can cause them to re-offend," Rochford says.

"When individuals can find sustainable employment, recover from addictions and pay fines, child support and taxes,

**"We offer research-based programming to help offenders address issues like chemical dependency, thinking skills, accountability and other obstacles that, if not dealt with, can cause them to reoffend."**

**Bernie Rochford,**  
vice president of  
Oriana House



they can be self-sufficient, contributing members of the community and are less likely to offend again," Rochford adds.

An additional benefit of Akron's community corrections programs is alleviating overcrowding at the Summit County Jail. When community-based programs are used for appropriate offenders, jail beds are available for more serious offenders.

"The city has demonstrated its support through its annual funding of these

important programs," says Rochford. "We help preserve public safety, save taxpayers' money and improve our neighborhoods and the lives of residents."



# Drafting the Greenprint for Akron

The city's plan to reduce emissions and save energy

By Robert Sberna



**The** City of Akron's Health Department has recently purchased two fuel-efficient hybrid automobiles. The new Akron Centre Parking Deck is the first parking deck in Ohio to incorporate LED lights, resulting in significantly lower energy usage.

Meanwhile, the city's biogas facility is one of the first in the nation to convert sewage sludge into methane-rich gas that is used to generate electricity. And the recently completed Beech Street Trailhead has incorporated porous concrete, which is an environmentally friendly way of handling stormwater runoff.

These are just a few of the steps that Akron has taken to become a "green" city.

As part of Mayor Don Plusquellic's Greenprint for Akron, city officials are looking for many more ways to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of life for residents.

Introduced by the Mayor in 2007, the greenprint is a long-term plan designed to quantify Akron's carbon footprint while creating ways to reduce it. The greenprint initiative came about after Mayor Plusquellic served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2005. At that time, the national mayors' organization endorsed a Climate Protection Agreement, in which the mayors committed to reduce emissions and conserve natural resources in their respective cities.

"We know how to use blueprints for

**City employees from nearly all departments are contributing their ideas and efforts to the greenprint initiative. Here are a few of their contributions**

constructing buildings," explains Mayor Plusquellic. "Going forward, we need to have a new plan on how Akron can compete effectively in a world that is increasingly concerned about environmental issues — a greenprint, if you will."

Along with cutting energy usage, the Mayor's greenprint calls for boosting environmentally friendly purchasing for city departments, increasing parks and walkable areas, implementing stormwater management strategies such as green



**Jeff Walck,  
superintendent  
of Motor Equipment**

Walck coordinated the acquisition of three hybrid cars for the city. He is now exploring the purchase of energy-saving sanitation trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles that are powered by natural gas and diesel-electric technologies. He notes: "These vehicles can reduce our fuel costs, which means we'll be spending less of the taxpayers' money and going green at the same time."

**Randy Rose,  
foreman,  
Building Maintenance**

Rose recently suggested installing a green (or vegetative) roof on the city-owned Hamlin Building. Green roofs can lower cooling costs and reduce stormwater runoff. "The roof is going to need repair, so if we're going to invest money anyhow, why not explore the viability of a green roof?" says Rose.

**Frank Markunas,  
chief air quality  
engineer, Health Dept.**

At Markunas's suggestion, the city purchased two Chevy Malibu hybrid cars for his department. "The hybrids offer improved fuel efficiency," he says. "And every gallon of gas saved means fewer greenhouse gases are released into our air."



**Genny Hanna,  
civil engineer,  
Engineering Bureau**

Hanna is part of a team that is studying citywide greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, buildings, waste and wastewater facilities, and other sources. "Having that data will help us to know where we can reduce emissions and how we can reduce emissions," Hanna says.

roofs and rain gardens, addressing transit and transportation and developing opportunities for "green-collar" jobs that could strengthen our economy.

To shape and implement the greenprint, the city will partner with residents, civic leaders, corporations, schools, environmental groups and vendors.

The Mayor selected Keep Akron Beautiful to develop public awareness of the greenprint and serve as the community clearinghouse for information on how Akron can save energy, limit waste and make new buildings "smarter."

Now in its 28th year, Keep Akron Beautiful is widely perceived as the group that "plants flowers and makes the city look nice," says Paula Davis, the nonprofit organization's president and CEO. "But that's just the frosting on the cake. We were created to make our environment look better and be safer and cleaner. Over the years, we've expanded our focus from cleaning up litter, to recycling, to addressing issues such as water and air quality and energy efficiency."

Davis says the greenprint is a "humon-

gous undertaking" because it focuses on getting people in their homes and at work to make changes in their behavior that will help to lessen the carbon footprint. "It's asking people to not drive as much or drive a more energy-efficient vehicle or ride a bike or take mass transit," she notes. "It's big stuff. It means maybe not being so comfortable in your home because you need to decrease the heat or layer on clothes. We're asking people to not use their air conditioning as much, and remember to turn their power strips off, and use cold water in their washing machines."

Davis is currently working with a "Green Ribbon" panel of city employees to draft a mission and vision statement for the greenprint, which is scheduled for implementation by 2012. The panel is looking at seven action areas to develop energy reduction goals and natural resource conservation.

The action areas include:

- Energy & Emissions
- Water & Wastewater Management
- Materials & Solid Waste Management

- Transit
- Development
- Conservation Of Natural Resources
- Community Education and Promotion of Progress

As part of the drafting process, the Green Ribbon panel has catalogued and listed all of the green initiatives that are currently underway within the city, notes Davis. "We call them our grassroots success stories. It turns out that we have been making a lot of good environmental decisions all along. We just haven't publicized them."

The success of the greenprint will hinge on peoples' willingness to adapt their behavior and make some small sacrifices, notes Davis. "If we can do that, the benefits will be a better quality of life for us and our children. The kids will be able to experience a childhood like previous generations did. We'll have greenspace, wonderful park systems, more blue skies and cleaner air and water."

For information about the Greenprint for Akron and energy-saving ideas, visit [www.keepakronbeautiful.org](http://www.keepakronbeautiful.org).



# This is Akron



Mayor Plusquellic (center) participates in the official opening of the new **CarePlus CVS Pharmacy** and MinuteClinic Health Care Center located in the FirstMerit Tower in downtown Akron. Also cutting the ribbon were (L-R) Dennis Dabney of FirstEnergy, Chris Goff of Employers Health Purchasing Corporation, Chris Maurer of FirstMerit, and James Margiotta of CVS Caremark.



➤ Akron commemorated the **200th anniversary** of its first settlement with the dedication of an Ohio Historic marker at Middlebury Cemetery on Newton Street, which was first established in 1808 and where a number of Revolutionary War soldiers are buried. Participating in the ceremony were Steve France, president of Progress Through Preservation (left of marker), Ward 10 Councilwoman Kelli Crawford (right), and retired librarian Ruth Clinefelter, who championed the placement of the marker (far right).





As seen through the lens of City photographer Bruce Ford, who has been capturing scenes of Akron for nearly 30 years.



◀ The sixth annual **Akron Road Runner Marathon** attracted 10,000 participants as well as the 2008 USA Women's 8 km Championship. Ethiopia native Birhanu Wukaw Zeleke, 25, of Washington, D.C., claimed the men's title. Sarah Plaxton, 40, of Highland, Michigan, won the women's title. More than 4,300 runners competed in the Chase Team Relay. This year's race also featured its first-ever wheelchair division, and the sixth annual Children's Fun Run. See [www.akronmarathon.org](http://www.akronmarathon.org) for details.

➤ Marathon founders Steve and Jeannine Marks ran in the half-marathon in Chemnitz, Germany, sponsored by Akron's sister city this summer.



▲ In turn, four German runners participated in the Akron Marathon this fall. One of the Road Runner Marathon winners was Nico Gehre of Chemnitz, (2nd from left) who placed 5th in the men's marathon with a time of 2:35:40.



➤ The stage of the Akron Civic Theatre was bursting with homegrown rock-and-rollers this fall as **DEVO** returned to Akron to play a benefit concert to a sold-out house, accompanied by the world-traveling **Black Keys**, and Hall of Famer **Chrissie Hynde**.



◀ The popular **Lock 3 Farmer's Market** closed out the season with a fruit and vegetable carving contest that attracted chefs from around Ohio.



◀ **Akron's Artwalk** the first Saturday of every month features more than 20 working artists at the Northside/East Market district. Trolleys transport visitors between gallery areas. "Glassworks" at Northside is home to Jack Baker's glass furnace. Artist John Boyett (left) joined Baker (right) for a recent Artwalk show.



## What's the 311? | Citizens' Q & A with the Mayor



**Mayor Don Plusquellic fields questions from concerned residents...**

**Q.** *What's the Number 1 issue on the minds of Akron residents?*

**A.** At every meeting I attend throughout the community, people are concerned about our economy. For 23 years, our focus at City Hall has been on retaining and attracting jobs, so Akron is in better shape than most Ohio cities, and better than most cities in the traditional "rust belt."

But everywhere, employers are facing tight budgets. Layoffs are bound to occur and unemployment will increase. That's why I have joined with other mayors in urging Congress and President-elect Obama to adopt a "Main Street" stimulus package that will allow the federal

government to assist us with putting people to work in jobs that will also help us rebuild our infrastructure.

On December 8, I went to Washington to meet with Congressional leaders including the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority leader to give them our 'ready-to-go' infrastructure projects — ones that could be started and completed in just two calendar years — if emergency federal funding were made available. Akron has 30 such projects that could be in the construction stage within a matter of months, if we had the funds to proceed.

It's likely that we will see some action soon on this front. To see a list of projects, go to [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org) and click on the "ready to go" report.

**Q.** *What is the City doing about abandoned and boarded-up houses in our neighborhoods?*

**A.** The number of homes in foreclosure is unprecedented in our recent history, as a result of the nation's economic downturn. This city is taking a multi-pronged approach to this problem:

1. In February, I announced that we were teaming up with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA), which negotiates on behalf of homeowners with banks and mortgage companies to restructure loans headed to default. NACA has opened an office in the Balch Street Community Center and will also hold foreclosure workshops in Akron.

2. We are likely to receive \$8.5 million from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program authorized by Congress this summer. The funds will be used to target foreclosed, abandoned and blighted properties in our neighborhoods. The city

expects to impact at least 250 properties through acquisition, rehabilitation and resale, and through demolition.

3. In November, I sent a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, suggesting that Akron become a pilot program to assist homeowners about to lose their homes. Existing federal programs actually prohibit us from helping residents who are still in their homes. But, with a little help, these residents may be able to save their property from foreclosure. I asked Paulson to consider a \$23.5 million investment to allow the city to act as a "bridge" for homeowners in crisis. We could accomplish this by paying funds directly to lenders to restructure home loans to an affordable level, either by reducing the interest rate or extending the term of the loan, or in some cases, doing both.

4. We continue to collaborate with Summit County government in providing assistance to homeowners in trouble with their home loans.

I want to thank Mike and Diana Herhold of Hampton Road in Goodyear Heights for donating the 30-foot official City Christmas Tree at Lock 3. This was one of four trees they planted 33 years ago, and the one that survived their kids! The evergreen boasts 4,000 new blue LED lights, which can provide up to 100,000 hours of light compared to 1,000 hours offered by ordinary incandescent bulbs. LEDs also do not produce heat and save energy.



**This is the time to remember the greatness of our country, our gratitude to men and women who serve in uniform, and to do everything we can to make special memories for our children.**

**I wish you all good fortune for the New Year, and I hope to see you at First Night!**

**If you would like to ask the Mayor a question, send an email to [mayor@ci.akron.oh.us](mailto:mayor@ci.akron.oh.us) or write: Editor, Akron City Magazine 166 South High Street Akron, OH 44308**



# Akron Works | Where the Jobs Are

## A. Schulman a bright light in gloomy economy

*New plant could add up to 80 jobs*

By Tom Koch

Across the nation, manufacturers are feeling the effects of our economic downturn. Corporate profits are shrinking, consumer spending is dwindling and joblessness is on the rise. It's not a very pretty picture.

However, in the midst of the dismal economy, A. Schulman, Inc. is increasing production and employment. The Akron-based firm is doing so by shifting its focus from supplying the slumping automotive industry to providing plastics used for packaging food and other consumer goods.

The company, which was founded here in 1929, is expanding its Polybatch manufacturing operations with a new plant at the site of its existing distribution warehouse in Akron. The new production facility will double the number of Polybatch production lines from two to four and boost employment in Akron by as many as 80 new jobs over the next several years.

A. Schulman will receive financial incentives from the City of Akron, Summit County, and the State of Ohio.

In announcing the Akron expansion, A. Schulman chairman, president, and CEO Joseph Gingo stated, "We intend to be a leader with this product line in the U.S. market just as we are an established leader in Europe and Mexico."



The company is a leading international supplier of high-performance plastic compounds and resins used in a variety of consumer, industrial, automotive and packaging applications.

"A. Schulman has a long and proud history in Akron, and we intend to continue to be a major contributor to the community," noted Gingo.

Mayor Don Plusquellic added, "It is critical for us to create partnerships if we want to remain competitive as communities in Northeastern Ohio. The economy dictates that we join forces, combine resources and be a force for creating and retaining jobs. Akron has done this with companies small, medium and large and with considerable success."

**In the midst of the dismal economy, A. Schulman, Inc. is increasing production and employment.**

## FirstEnergy adds high-performance green building and new jobs

Reddy Kilowatt's best friend, FirstEnergy Corp., has been a bright spot in adding jobs to the Greater Akron area for many years.

Nearly 700 employees will be located at the new \$33 million, 208,000-square-foot building at the White Pond campus. The number of jobs at the West Akron complex now totals more than 1000. With its headquarters downtown — which is continuing to grow — and other facilities nearby, FirstEnergy employs 2,400 in Greater Akron.

"These jobs could have been located anywhere in Ohio, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey," said Mayor Don Plusquellic. To keep the jobs in Akron, the city invested \$2 million to acquire land, do demolition and site clearance, as well as provide public improvements with assistance from the State of Ohio.



FirstEnergy's new White Pond facility is Akron's first large-scale green office building, and the city's first office building to be constructed to LEED specifications. Some unique environmental features include underfloor HVAC systems for energy-efficient climate control and sunshades on

the building to reduce energy use. Recycled steel manufactured in U.S. mills was used to reduce transportation costs. The company is making accommodations for bicycles, carpooling and low-emission vehicles. Drought-resistant vegetation was used for landscaping to reduce mowing.

**FirstEnergy is the first office building in Akron constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications.**



## Mayor Plusquellic receives leadership award

*City recognized for business initiative*

In recognition of Mayor Don Plusquellic's achievements in economic development, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has presented him with its 2008 Leadership Award for Public Service. During its annual conference in Atlanta this past October, IEDC Chair Robin Roberts Krieger said the award honors an elected official who has served as a dedicated advocate for economic development for at least 10 years in the public sector. "And Mayor Plusquellic, much to the benefit of the communities he has served, has inhabited that role

with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness throughout his career," she noted. Along with bringing international business here, the Mayor has been successful in retaining local jobs. In the past two years, he has retained and created 10,000 new jobs.

Also at its annual conference, the IEDC recognized the City of Akron for its "exceptional business initiative" that resulted in Goodyear deciding to keep its World Headquarters here, retaining 2,900 jobs. Akron was awarded an Honorable Mention in the category of Business Retention and Expansion.



George Barany of the Consumer Federation of America (left) and Dustin Joyce, (right) of the U.S. Conference of Mayors meet the press and Akron bankers at conference in city council chambers.

## Akron Named First "Savings Community" in U.S.

Akron is the first city in the nation to become a "Savings Community," a special initiative by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and America Saves, a nonprofit group that encourages consumer savings and debt reduction.

Akron was chosen because of Mayor Don Plusquellic's leadership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2005, when the Dollarwise savings program was launched. The initiative will continue until America Saves Week, which starts Feb. 22, 2009.

"This is a pilot program," said Dustin Joyce of the USCM. "It is one step toward changing people's mindsets to one of accruing savings, not debt."

Mayor Plusquellic equated its potential success with other behavior modification efforts such as Keep America Beautiful (litter reduction), Project Learn for literacy, and numerous stop-smoking efforts.

"The reason most of these have worked," said Mayor Plusquellic, "is that we started with children in school. They then brought the message home to mom

and dad. What we have learned is that the message is loud and clear when it comes from our kids."

America's overall rate of personal savings is near zero, according to George Barany of the Consumer Federation of America. The centerpiece of the Savings Community initiative is a coalition of local employers, financial institutions, non-profits and others that promotes a message of personal savings and provides concrete opportunities to help people save. Visit [www.AkronSaves.org](http://www.AkronSaves.org) for more information.

# 2008 Marks Towpath Activity

by Dave Lieberth



In 2008, the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath returned to downtown Akron. Our city, whose main streets were built on two canals, now has a direct route for bikers and hikers to the outskirts of Cleveland. Users of the 101-mile Towpath Trail topped two million last year, making it one of the most-visited national park sites in the United States.

## Bridge over Route 59

A 270-foot span was set in place in August, connecting Quaker Street to Beech Street via a tunnel under West Market Street. "This further establishes our vision of Akron being a city of neighborhoods within a park," said Mayor Don Plusquellic. The \$2.8 million project was funded with assistance from the state's Clean Ohio Fund, federal grants and the Knight Foundation.

## 2009 Towpath construction

Construction will continue to extend the towpath in 2009, from the north end of Summit Lake to Wilbeth Road. The new

section will include a "floating" towpath across Summit Lake, reminiscent of the original section starting at Lewis Street and going under Kenmore Boulevard.

This year we'll also see construction of the towpath from Wilbeth to Waterloo Road, as well as the trail behind Advanced Elastomer Systems on South Main Street.

## Howe House move

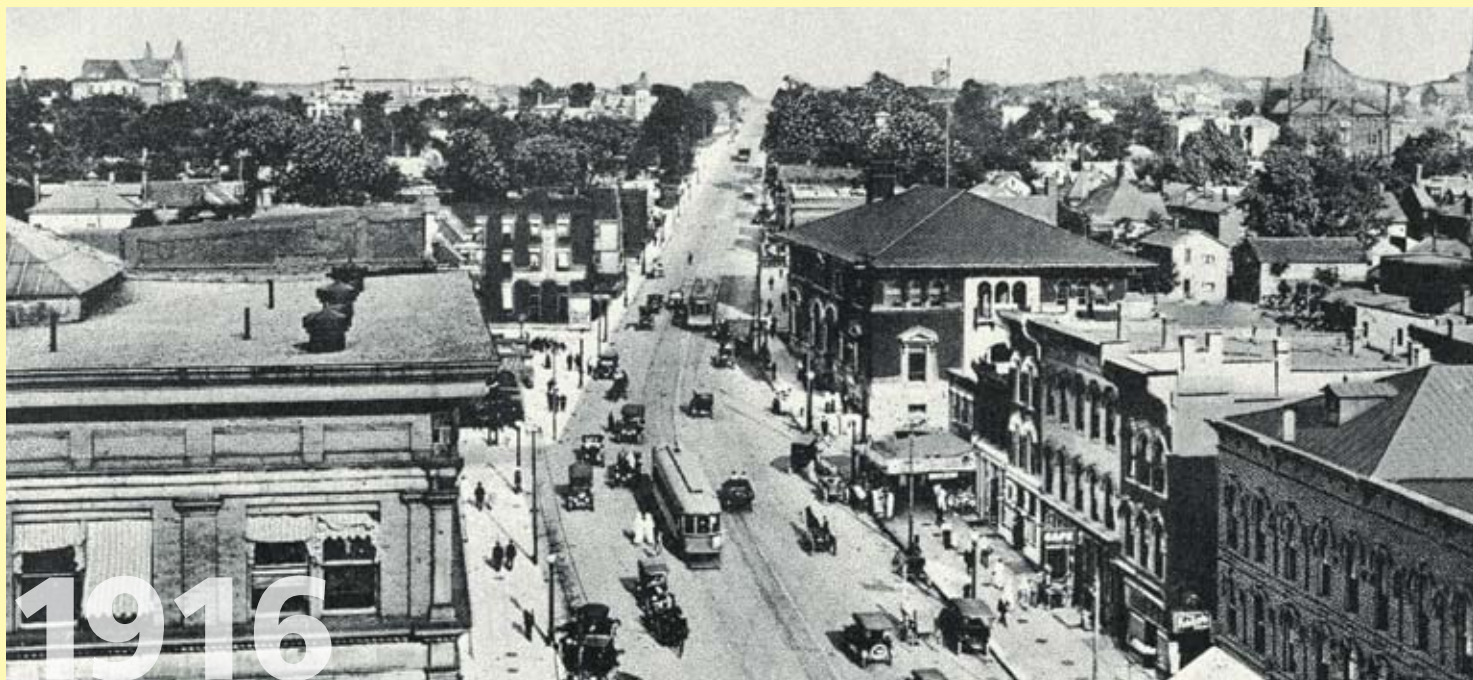
The City of Akron and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition moved the 80-ton historic Richard Howe House west on Exchange Street, from High to Water Street, on a clear, crisp day in June. It was the home of the canal's resident engineer Richard Howe. The Coalition has raised more than \$1 million to restore the building as a visitor information center, meeting space and offices.

## Young's Hotel

The city acquired Young's Hotel this year, both to secure the shuttered building and to prevent inappropriate development at one of Akron's most historic sites. This is the last remaining building of the many lakes resorts that were common in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The site on Nesmith Lake is an important canal landmark, and is adjacent to the Tuscarawas terminus of the Indian portage.







**Main and Market, 92 years apart**



**A**wider Market street greets 31,000 downtown Akron office workers every day, including some who wish that the streetcars of 1916 were still around!

Back then, visitors could see Akron's east horizon from atop the Portage Hotel, which opened in 1912. The relatively new U.S. Post Office at High Street was still the subject of controversy, as many

Akron residents thought it "plain" and "ugly."

Today, the view is from atop the SummaCare Building, and the new Akron Art Museum designed by Wolf Prix embraces the old post office-turned museum. The United Building at lower right houses the Knight Center for Digital Excellence, which will install a wireless Internet umbrella over a 10-square-mile area of Akron in 2009.



**A**kron police officers Timothy Wypasek and James Donahue were honored in October by Ohio's Attorney General with the "Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award." In April, they were forced to chase a suspect on foot through a North Hill neighborhood while being fired upon by the suspect. With assistance from other officers, they eventually were able to disarm the man and remove his weapon without anyone being injured. Wypasek has been on the force since 2002; Donahue joined the department in 1997.



John Moore

John Moore has succeeded Warren Woolford as Interim Director of the Department of Planning & Urban Development. Moore, who joined the Planning Department in 1983, previously served as Zoning Manager. Moore may best be known to the public as the person who regularly presents requests for zoning changes to the Akron City Council. A graduate of the University of Akron with a B.A. in Geography/Planning, Moore and his wife Karen have three children. He is a member of the Moose Lodge, the Summit County Sportsman Association and is a coach for the Ellet Youth Basketball Association. Woolford, Planning Director since 1993, retired September 30.

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Officers Timothy Wypasek (in car) and James Donahue

## Employees Of The Month

### AUGUST



**OFFICER TODD SINSLEY** was August's Employee of the Month. He began his career with the Akron Police Department just this past January. Since graduating from the academy he has been assigned to the

3-11pm patrol shift. In March, Officer Sinsley and his partner made a traffic stop after seeing a speeding car run a stop sign. A passenger in the vehicle was bleeding profusely. Todd used the victim's belt to make a tourniquet. His quick actions saved the victim from bleeding to death. Todd and his wife Michelle have an 11-month-old son, Maxwell.

### OCTOBER



October's Employee award went to **EDWARD REGEC**, who is an Account Clerk in the Bureau of Public Works. He handles all requisitions, travel requests and purchase orders for the

Division; maintains the computer inventory; tracks the AVL systems; and backs up other employees. He was honored for his accuracy and thoroughness.

### NOVEMBER



In November, **KAROL HATCH**, a Secretary in the Law Department was recognized. She works for six attorneys and handles their word processing and legal filings. She also prepares the actual legislation that goes to City Council every week.



## Isroff Park Dedicated

Members of the family of the late Judith Bear Isroff, the founder of Keep Akron Beautiful (center) join Mayor Plusquellic (left) and KAB President Paula Davis (right) for the dedication of the new park commemorating Isroff's contributions to the Greater Akron Community.

The park, on the triangle of land at White Pond Drive and West Market Street, contains undulating mounds, pathways and stone walls with 58 new trees that are part of a serene, simple and sophisticated landscape design created by landscape architect John Vittum.

The landscape plan was executed by Vizmeg Landscape, Inc. and Diamond Blade Landscaping, with the support of the city's Engineering Bureau.

Nineteen of Judy's colleagues worked for more than two years to develop the memorial, which blends her passions for modern art and public beautification.

FirstEnergy donated the soil to create the new topography from its headquarters building that was recently completed on White Pond Drive. Naragon Irrigation provided the sprinkling system. Donations for the Judith Bear Isroff Park Endowment Fund are still being accepted through the Akron Community Foundation.



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